

Bell companies operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning will stimulate competition and be of benefit to the consumers. To not do so would cripple the '96 Telecom Act, the essential purpose of which was to benefit not shareholders but consumers. There should be a way to avoid any contact with the ILEC, to wit a dry pari install and a cell phone, with no local land line. Remember, the ILECs were built not with private capital alone, but with taxpayer money. Have the courage, unlike the others in the Bush administration to do the job you swore to do, serving the taxpayers to whom you owe your service, and not the PACS to whom you owe your office. Broadband is, as voice telephon, before, an essential service, not to be at the mercy of private companies alone, but subject to the common good.